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XI.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

1. *Allen on Birds from Santa Marta, Colombia.*

[Supplementary Notes on Birds collected in the Santa Marta District, Colombia, by Herbert A. Smith, with Descriptions of Nests and Eggs. By J. A. Allen. Bull. A. M. Nat. Hist. vol. xxi. pp. 275-295 (1905).]

In 1900 Dr. Allen published in the 'Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History' (xiii. p. 115; see 'Ibis,' 1901, p. 319) a list of the birds collected by Mr. Herbert Smith in the Santa Marta district of Colombia. A more recent shipment received from the same district, also made by Mr. Smith, contained about 350 bird-skins and a large collection of nests and eggs. With these the total number of species now recorded from Santa Marta is 392. The present paper contains additions and corrections to the former list, and descriptions of the nests and eggs forwarded by Mr. Smith, as already mentioned. Only those identified in a "fairly positive" manner are dealt with.

Some of them are of considerable interest—such as *Bucco*, *Gabula*, *Manacus*, and *Chiroxiphia*.

2. *Allen on the Birds of N.E. Siberia.*

[Report on the Birds collected in North-Eastern Siberia by the Jesup North Pacific Expedition, with Field-notes by the Collectors. By J. A. Allen. Bull. A. M. Nat. Hist. xxi. p. 219 (1905).]

The extreme north-eastern point of Asia is a most interesting country to the Palearctic ornithologist, and we cannot be too grateful to Mr. Allen for giving us an account of the 800 skins, besides nests and eggs, which were collected on that coast by Mr. Buxton and his assistants during the "Jesup" North Pacific Expedition of 1900-01. They are referred to 125 species, while two others are added from Mr. Buxton's notes. Two of the species, *Alauda buxtoni* and *Anthus anadyrensis*, are characterised as new to science. The species are mostly in the British List, and, though the birds of Kamtschatka have been well catalogued by Guillemard and Stejneger, additional information as to their occurrence in this remote district is always acceptable.

Dr. Allen commences his list at the lower end and uses the most newly-discovered names of the American Checklist. But, for the sake of his less-advanced brethren on this side of the Atlantic, he might have explained to us the meaning of such names as *Gavia lumme* and *Totanus ater*, under which some of our familiar birds lie hidden.

3. 'Annals of Scottish Natural History.'

[The Annals of Scottish Natural History. Nos. 55 & 56, July and October 1905.]

The first of these numbers contains some interesting Zoological Notes out of the log-book of the Ben Nevis Observatory, from 1872 down to the deplorable close of that institution on October 1st, 1904. The species of birds recorded from the summit of the highest mountain in the British Islands could hardly be many; the most abundant being the

Snow-Bunting, which is resident throughout the year and breeds near the top. The Notes on the Birds of St. Kilda, compiled by the Rev. J. B. Mackenzie from his father's memoranda, are continued and concluded. Of the Gannet, we learn that "it is here called 'suleire,' the sharp-eyed," so that now the origin of the so-called "Scandinavian" and Latinised *Sula* appears obvious—and Gaelic*. The descriptions of the habits of the sea-birds, as well as of the mode of collecting the harvest of the cliffs, are excellent; while a smile may be raised at the respective merits of Guillemots' eggs, on their progress from freshness (through incubation) to the unhatched and late-in-the-season stage, when some, on being cooked, "look like a piece of sponge-cake, have a high gamey flavour, and are esteemed a great delicacy." The rendering into English of some of the Gaelic names is very descriptive, and we do not remember to have seen them explained before. Thus the Manx Shearwater is often called "cromag," or crescent-shaped, from the appearance of the wings during flight; and the Puffin is "buigire" = the damp-fellow, because he reaches the island a few days earlier if the weather should be damper than usual. In this case only the explanation is new, the Gaelic name being widely spread, even to the north of Ireland. The latest news from St. Kilda is contributed by Mr. James Waterston, who was there from June 11th to July 10th, 1905, and records, among other details, two examples of the Great Shearwater (*Puffinus gravis*), picked up in a decomposed condition (pp. 201-2). A bird of this species was also found dead at Lendalfoot, Ayrshire, on October 3rd, 1904, as mentioned by Mr. John Paterson in his admirable Report on Scottish Ornithology for 1904 (pp. 203-15). The erratic occurrences at the Flannan Islands of the Black Redstart, Sedge-Warbler, and

* Messrs. Harvie-Brown and Buckley ('Fauna of the Outer Hebrides,' p. 94, 1888) give "*Sulaire*=the eyed or the eyer," but that rendering is less "happy" and convincing than Dr. Mackenzie's. Five years later in the 'Dictionary of Birds,' pt. i. (published in 1893), Professor Newton writes (p. 300, footnote 1): "Solan is no doubt from the Scandinavian *Sula*, whatever that may mean."—H. S.

Spotted Flycatcher, all in *June*, are recorded by Mr. W. Eagle Clarke. Other interesting facts are to be found among the Zoological Notes.—H. S.

4. 'The Auk.'

[The Auk. A Quarterly Journal of Ornithology. Vol. xxii. Nos. 3 & 4, July and October 1905.]

The first paper is by the Rev. C. W. G. Eifrig, on the Ornithological results of the Canadian 'Neptune' Expedition to Hudson Bay, and northward as far as lat. $78^{\circ} 40'$, on the coast of Greenland. Winter-quarters were in the north-western corner of Hudson Bay, and the expedition was absent a year and fifty-one days. Some of the results were surprising: for instance, the Great Black-backed Gull was found to be common and breeding on North Devon Island, about 75° N., a vast extension of its range as previously known. Sabine's Gull and the Lesser Snow-Goose were rather common and nested on Southampton Land and other islands; while interesting details are given respecting many other Arctic species. Mr. Ruthven Deane sends another instalment of letters written to Audubon by William Swainson, between 1828-30, a period when the latter "was deeply engaged in his literary pursuits, yet in a discontented and nervous frame of mind, mortified at the slow sale of his 'Zoological Illustrations,' his temporary embarrassment for funds, and his evident growing dislike for American naturalists." Mr. Austin W. Clark has a contribution on Extirpated West-Indian Birds, followed by two papers on the Macaws of the Lesser and the Greater Antilles, and one on the West-Indian Parrots (p. 337). Mr. John E. Thayer gives illustrations of the stuffed Great Auk formerly in the collection of Lord Hill, and of two eggs out of three, recently purchased from Mr. Rowland Ward. Mr. B. S. Bowdish's Ornithology of a Churchyard (St. Paul's, New York City) shews a surprising list of species afforded by the close investigation of a restricted and unpromising area. Mr. J. H. Riley gives a list of 71 species of birds obtained or observed in the Bahamas during June and July 1903.

We have not enumerated other papers which have reference solely to the United States; but Mr. R. Deane's list of the Ruffs obtained in North America (p. 410) will interest European ornithologists. It is with much regret that we read (p. 443) of the deliberate murder of Mr. Guy M. Bradley, in Monro County, Florida, while engaged, as Game-warden, in protecting birds from the plume-hunters.—H. S.

5. 'Avicultural Magazine.'

[Avicultural Magazine. The Journal of the Avicultural Society. New Series. Vol. iii. Nos. 10–12, Vol. iv. No. 1. London: August to November 1905.]

The most important paper in these four numbers of the 'Avicultural Magazine' is that by Mr. D. Seth-Smith on the breeding in captivity of *Turnix varia* (2 illustrations), which forms a welcome supplement to his similar article on *T. tanki* in July 1903. Special emphasis is laid on the female's method of courting and her booming note, and on the incubation and rearing of the young by the male. It seems likely that *T. varia* is polyandrous, which would imply that the custom is usual in the genus. The same author has been successful in breeding *Synæcus australis*, while Sir W. Ingram has had equally good results with *Pternistes leucoscephus* (4 illustrations), and other writers record their experiences with the Psittaci—a favourite group—with some of the Fringillidæ, the Red-backed Shrike, and hybrid Ousels. Several members give us their experiences connected with birds on journeys at home and abroad, while minor articles and notes too numerous to mention swell the sum total. A curious instance is quoted (p. 331) of the Lapland Bunting breeding six feet from the ground; and a correction should be noted, namely, that the figure of *Ammoperdix heyi* in the July number really represents *A. cholmleyi*. The coloured plates which accompany the accounts of three species are of *Cyanops franklini*, *Pionopsittacus pileatus*, and *Trichoglossus nigrigularis*. No. 12 contains the annual report of the Council.

6. Dresser's 'Eggs of the Birds of Europe.'

[Eggs of the Birds of Europe, including all the Species inhabiting the Palaearctic Area. By H. E. Dresser. London, 1905. 4to. Pt. I. pp. 1-32, 5 pls.]

When Messrs. Dresser and Sharpe issued the first part of the 'Birds of Europe' in 1871, it was at once recognised that a monumental work was in course of preparation, and the result did not falsify the anticipation. We now have the pleasure of announcing to our readers the publication, under the title cited above, of the first part of Mr. Dresser's long contemplated sequel to the former book. It is calculated that some twenty parts, each containing from twenty to thirty species and five plates, will suffice to give a proper idea of the extremes of variation in the eggs, a large proportion of which will be figured from the rich collection of the author, though he will take advantage of every possible opportunity of including those of which he does not himself possess specimens. In many cases nests are also figured.

Besides the plates, which are as good examples as we have seen of the "three-colour process," a page or more of letterpress is usually devoted to each species, wherein are given the local names, the ranges, the habits, the notes, the times of incubation, and descriptions of the nests, with references to figures in other publications. The eggs of *Sylvia affinis* are believed to be now figured for the first time.

The author has followed his usual custom of admitting but few subspecies, so that the eggs must be taken to represent what field-botanists call the "aggregate" as opposed to the "segregate," and any differences that may exist between those of the various geographical races is disregarded. It is difficult to see how this could have been avoided in so comprehensive a work; but it would be advantageous to workers in Ornithology if Mr. Dresser would call attention to such geographical races as are generally admitted, and state their respective ranges so far as they are known. This is not a question of the advantages of trinomial or binomial nomenclature, but of the recognition of variability in a species, and we hope that the author may see his way to

give a list of the races in subsequent parts. In other respects Mr. Dresser appears to have carried out his difficult task admirably, though we may suggest that Montagu's Harrier and the Hen Harrier by no means always fly low, and that they are often distinctly vociferous at the nest.

The eggs figured in this Part are those of *Elanus ceruleus*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *C. cineraceus*, *C. swainsoni*, *C. cyaneus*, *Buteo vulgaris*, *B. zimmermannæ*, *B. ferax*, *Archibuteo lagopus*, *Pernis apivorus*, 13 species of *Sylvia*, and 2 species of *Melizophilus*.

7. 'The Emu.'

[The Emu. A Quarterly Magazine to popularize the Study and Protection of Native Birds. Official Organ of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union. Vol. v. pt. 2 (Oct. 1905) and Supplement. Melbourne, 1905.]

'The Emu' for October, 1905, contains an important article on one of the Lyre-birds (*Menura victoriae*) by Mr. A. E. Kitson. The habits are fully described, the nest and eggs are figured, and the bird's capacity for mimicry is noted, an important fact (apparently unknown hitherto) being that the female is almost as clever a mimic as the male. Mr. F. L. Berney continues his "Field-Notes on Birds of the Richmond District, North Queensland," while various other articles and notes complete the Part.

A supplement contains "A Dichotomous Key to the Birds of Australia," by Mr. A. G. Campbell, who hopes that it will be found useful by all ornithologists, and particularly those interested in field-work. It is in effect a key to the species (which are not described in detail), and the genera only come in as an aid to determining the species.

8. Finsch on the Birds of Borneo.

[Dr. A. W. Nieuwenhuis' Forschungsreisen in Niederländisch Borneo. Ornithologische Ergebnisse hauptsächlich von oberen Mahakam und Kajan. Bearbeitet von Dr. O. Finsch. Notes Leyd. Mus. xxvi. nos. 1 & 2. Leyden, 1905.]

After an excellent *résumé* of previous authorities on the birds of Borneo, Dr. Finsch gives an account of the large

collections of birds made in the Dutch portion of that great island by Dr. A. W. Nieuwenhuis from 1896 to 1900, and sent to the Leyden Museum. They are referred to 209 species, on each of which short notes are given. The only actually new species in the series obtained by Dr. Nieuwenhuis was a Short-legged Ant-Thrush, *Poliolophus nieuwenhuisi*, which has been previously described, and is now figured, but there are other rarities in the list. We observe that 12 examples of *Phylloscopus borealis* were obtained on the Upper Mahakam River during the winter months, shewing one of the localities where this little bird, which breeds in the far north, passes its winter. A fine series of the splendid Pheasant *Lobiophasis bulweri* was also procured on the Upper Mahakam River, and an adult male of *Dissura sturmi* (see 'Ibis,' 1904, p. 674) on the Upper Kapuas.

9. Hartert's 'Miscellanea Ornithologica.'

[Miscellanea Ornithologica. Critical, Nomenclatorial, and other Notes mostly on Palearctic Birds and their Allies. By Ernst Hartert, Ph.D. Part II. Nov. Zool. xii. pp. 497-503.]

We have already noticed the first part of Dr. Hartert's 'Miscellanea Ornithologica' (see 'Ibis,' 1905, p. 123). The author begins the second part by a discussion of the various races of *Parus major*, of which 18 are enumerated. Of these *P. m. mahrattarum* (from the Indian peninsula and Ceylon) and *P. m. hainanus* (from Hainan) are described as new subspecies. Our English bird is called "*Parus major newtoni*," but we fear that the ornithologist after whom it is named will hardly appreciate the compliment. Remarks on some of the Larks (*Lullula*, *Alauda*, *Eremophila*, *Anmomanes*, and *Galerida*) follow. These are mainly supplementary to the accounts of these genera given in the third part of the 'Birds of the Palearctic Fauna.'

10. Hartert's 'Birds of the Palearctic Fauna.'

[Die Vögel der paläarktischen Fauna. Von Dr. E. Hartert. Heft iii.* Berlin: Friedländer, 1905.]

Continuing the same plan as in the previous parts,

* For notice of Heft ii., see 'Ibis,' 1904, p. 644.

Dr. Hartert finishes the difficult Family Alaudidæ, which he commenced in part ii., and discusses the genera *Lullula*, *Alauda*, *Alæmon*, *Chersophilus*, and *Eremophila*. Thirteen subspecies of *Alauda arvensis* are recognised and fifteen (Palæartic) forms of *Eremophila*. We regret that it has been thought necessary to resuscitate this name for the Shore-larks, which of late years have been usually called *Otocorys* (a very good name, when correctly spelled!). Nor, in our opinion, is it advisable to degrade such distinct forms as *Otocorys penicillata* and *O. bilopha* to the rank of subspecies. They are distinguishable *primo visu*, and it seems to be quite illogical to place them on the same level as other scarcely recognisable forms such as make up the bulk of the new subspecies.

The Motacillidæ, consisting of the Pipits and Wagtails, follow the Larks. Among them we find *Anthus leucophrys captus* (from Palestine), *A. berthelotii madeirensis* (from Madeira and Porto Santo), *A. spinoletta kleinschmitti* (from the Faroe Isl.), and *Motacilla flava simillima* (from Kamtschatka) described as new subspecies, besides which many little-known names are resuscitated as subspecies. Altogether 30 subspecific forms of Wagtails are recognised under 4 specific heads—*M. flava* (13), *M. citreola* (2), *M. boarula* (3), and *M. alba* (12).

The Neogean Mniotiltidæ are represented in the Palæartic Fauna by three stragglers only, and, although mentioned, are rightly excluded by Dr. Hartert from his List. The Nectariniidæ, which follow next, are a palæotropical group, but three species occur within palæartic limits—*Nectarinia brevirostris* in Eastern Persia, *N. osea* in Palestine, and *N. metallica* on the Nile as far north as the First Cataract. They are therefore rightly included in the present work. The allied Family Zosteropidæ, consisting of about 150 species, is also essentially Palæotropical, but three species of *Zosterops* occur in the Japanese Islands, and a fourth (*Z. erythropleurus*) ranges far north in China and up to the Amoor.

The Creepers, Nuthatches, and Tits, which occupy the

remaining pages of the present number of Dr. Hartert's work, are perhaps three of the most difficult Passerine groups in the whole Palæartic Ornis, and must have cost the energetic author much time and trouble, although they have been lately well monographed by Mr. Hellmayr*. Of *Certhiidae* Dr. Hartert enumerates 19 palæartic species and subspecies; of *Tichodroma*, the second palæartic genus of this Family, happily only one, although several attempts have been made to separate the local forms. Of *Certhia* 4 new subspecies are described and designated *C. familiaris corsa* (Corsica), *C. f. bianchii* (Kansu), *C. f. tianschanica* (Tianshan), and *C. brachydactyla ultramontana* (S. Europe). Thus while Mr. Dresser allows only 2 Palæartic species of *Certhia* Dr. Hartert gives us 19 separable forms. This is indeed a revolution!

Of the Nuthatches only one genus (*Sitta*) occurs within the Palæartic area, but the local forms, as we all know, are numerous: Dr. Hartert makes 24 of them—7 species and 17 subspecies. *Sitta europæa* is divided into 13 subspecies, among which our familiar bird figures as *Sitta europæa britannica*. *S. e. levantina* is a new subspecies from Asia Minor and Palestine. What has always been taken for a very distinct species—*Sitta whiteheadi* of Corsica—is now degraded into a subspecies of *Sitta canadensis*. This is quite a new view to us, but Dr. Hartert has, no doubt, carefully considered the question. It is most remarkable that two birds from such widely separated localities should be so nearly related.

The Paridæ, which come next, are not quite finished in this Part of the work, so we will defer our remarks upon them until the publication of Part IV.

11. *Hartert on Fringilla teydea.*

[Eine neue Subspecies von *Fringilla teydea*. Von Dr. Ernst Hartert. Orn. Monatsb. 1905, p. 164.]

Herr Hauptman Polatzek has lately discovered *Fringilla teydea* (hitherto believed to be confined to Teneriffe) in the

* Das Tierreich, 18 Lief., 1903. See 'Ibis,' 1904, p. 153.

mountain-woods of Grand Canary. The examples transmitted to Tring shew that the form of Grand Canary is slightly different, and Dr. Hartert proposes to call it *F. t. polatzeki*.

12. *Harvie-Brown's Travels in Northern Europe.*

[Travels of a Naturalist in Northern Europe. Norway, 1871, Archangel, 1872, Petchora, 1875. By J. A. Harvie-Brown. 2 vols. 8vo. London, 1905. Pp. i-xiv, 1-260, i-viii, 261-541. 2 col. pls. and 23 illustr., 4 maps, 9 appendices.]

Mr. Harvie-Brown's ornithological experiences are well-known to the members of our Union, and the papers on the results of his expeditions were an important feature in former volumes of our Journal ('Ibis,' 1873, p. 54; 1876, p. 105); but he strikes a new note when he gives us in the present book the actual substance of his Journals in almost the original phraseology. The journalistic form has, of course, its disadvantages, but these are compensated by the fact that we lose nothing of the pristine freshness of the writer's impressions taken down while he was actually in touch with the inhabitants—human and otherwise—of the districts which he visited. Only of the third journey, moreover, has a full account been hitherto published.

In 1871 Mr. Harvie-Brown, in company with the late E. R. Alston, travelled northward from Christiania through a considerable part of Norway, which was not so well known at that date as it is now; and this tour was followed in 1872 by a second to the Archangel district and the delta of the Dwina with the same companion.

The chief object in view was the observation of certain of the rarer British birds in their breeding-quarters, and a partial success was attained, but an irresistible impulse drew the author onward to still more Eastern countries, though the project unfortunately failed for the time being through the premature breaking up of the "winter-roads." But in 1875, Mr. Harvie-Brown, choosing the late Henry Seebohm as his fellow-traveller, started across Northern Russia to the Petchora River. It is needless to recapitulate the

disappointments and successes of the memorable journey from Ust-Zylma to the Samoyede tundras and the delta of the Petchora, for the pages themselves will recall to the reader the discovery of the eggs of the Grey Plover, the Little Stint, Bewick's Swan, the Petchora Pipit, and the Yellow-headed Wagtail (an extension in range of 1000 miles northwards), the occurrence of the Curlew-Sandpiper in nuptial plumage, of *Anthus gustavi*, *Phylloscopus tristis*, and *Pratincola maura* in their breeding-stations, the migratory movements of various species past Ust-Zylma, and many other interesting details; but we are sure that the account of the explorer's wanderings will be read with pleasure by many, and that the coloured plates of the eggs of the Grey Plover and Little Stint—along with those of the Golden Plover and Temminck's Stint for comparison—will be duly appreciated among the many illustrations. It may be mentioned that Mr. Harvie-Brown was subsequently in communication with Captain Wiggins, who was about to sail for the mouth of the Yenesai, but was unfortunately prevented from accompanying him. He passed on the Captain's offer to Seebohm, who was thus enabled to supplement the discoveries in the Petchora valley.

To one important misprint we may call the author's attention—the rhodendron-like plant found on the tundra should be "*Ledum*" and not "*Sedum*" *palustre*.

13. *Hellmayr on some Birds from Pará, Brazil.*

[Notes on a Collection of Birds made by Mons. A. Robert in the District of Pará, Brazil. By C. E. Hellmayr. Nov. Zool. xii. no. 2, pp. 269–305.]

After some preliminary remarks on the principal authorities on the birds of Pará and its vicinity (Natterer, Wallace, and Layard), the author gives us a systematic account of a collection made by M. Robert at Igarapé-Assa—a place on the railway between Pará and Braganca. It numbers 200 specimens referable to 89 species, of which two (*Hypocnemis vidua* and *Conopophaga roberti*) are new, besides an overlooked form of *Derophtyus accipitrinus* which is named *D. a. fuscifrons*. Moreover, there are ten species represented in the collection which have not been previously recorded from Pará, and

examples of such rarities as *Pipra opalizans* and *Calospiza albertinae*. The new names *Dendrocolaptes certhi ridgwayi*, *Cercomacra sclateri*, and *C. brasiliana* are proposed instead of others which Mr. Hellmayr considers to have been incorrectly applied to these forms.

14. *Hellmayr on Two new Peruvian Birds.*

[Descriptions of Two new Birds discovered by Mr. O. T. Baron in Northern Peru. By C. E. Hellmayr. Nov. Zool. xii. no. 2, pp. 503-4.]

Two new birds, specimens of which were sent to the Tring Museum from Northern Peru by Mr. Baron, are described as *Thripophaga berlepschi* and *Diglossa pectoralis uncinata*.

15. *Legge on the Australasian Ornis.*

[The Zoogeographical Relations of the Ornis of the various Subregions of the "Australian Region," with the Geographical Distribution of the principal Genera therein. Presidential Address. By Col. Legge, R.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.]

We have been favoured with a copy of the address given by our old friend Col. Legge, at Dunedin in New Zealand, on taking the Chair at the meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science in January 1904. Col. Legge naturally selected ornithology as his branch of Biological Science, and the Australasian Avifauna as the special subject of his oration. On the bird-life of the four great Subregions of Australasia he discourses at full length, and points out their principal characteristic forms. He then takes up the subject in systematic order, and shews how the different Families and Genera are represented in the different parts of the area of which he treats. The conclusions arrived at are:—

(1) Australia and Austro-Malaya are the most closely allied Subregions.

(2) The relations between Australia and Polynesia are mainly through the Meliphagidæ, Muscicapidæ, and Laniidæ.

(3) Between Austro-Malaya and Polynesia we find affinity through the Meliphagidæ, Muscicapidæ, Loriidæ, Peristeridæ, and Treronidæ.

(4) Between Polynesia and New Zealand through the

genera *Rhipidura*, *Cyanorhamphus*, *Urodynamis*, and *Notophox*.

(5) Between New Zealand and Australia through the genera *Rhipidura*, *Pseudogerygone*, and *Zosterops*.

The name "Papuan" is perhaps a better designation for the Austro-Malayan Subregion of Wallace, and New Zealand and its adjacent islands may be appropriately called the "Maorian Subregion," as suggested by Selater in 1891.

16. *McGregor on Philippine Birds.*

[(1) Birds from the Islands of Romblon, Sibuyan, and Cresta de Gallo. Bureau of Gov. Lab. no. 25. Manila, 1905.

(2) Further Notes on Birds from Ticao, Cuyo, Culion, Calayan, Lubang, and Luzon. *Ibid.*]

The American naturalists continue their successful investigations of the Ornithology of the Philippines (*cf. Ibis*, 1904, p. 642). In the first of these articles Mr. McGregor gives an account of his researches in the little-known Romblon group, which he visited in May 1904, with the result of adding 25 species to the list of its birds, those previously known from Prof. Worcester's exploration having amounted to 88. Of the 25 accessions two are described as new under the names of *Otis romblonis* and *Loriculus bournsi*, the latter having been previously united to *L. regulus*. Good field-notes and other remarks are given, and the large nesting-mound of *Megapodius cumingi* is described and figured. The nesting-habits of *Salangana* (intell. *Collocalia*) *marginata* are also described and the eggs figured.

In the second paper additional notes are given on some of the birds mentioned in previous articles. *Tachornis pallidior* from Luzon and *Æthopyga rubrinota* from Lubang are described as new, and very interesting details are given as to the nesting-habits of the Panini Hornbill (*Penelopides panini*) and of two species of small Swifts, *Salangana* (i. e., *Collocalia*) *linchi* and *S. whiteheadi*. The nesting-hole of the Hornbill, shewing the "cakes" by which the female is barred in, is figured, and a full account of this very singular habit is given.

17. *Newton's 'Ootheca Wolleyana.'*

[*Ootheca Wolleyana*: an Illustrated Catalogue of the Collection of Birds' Eggs formed by the late John Wolley, Jun., M.A., F.Z.S. Edited from the Original Notes by Alfred Newton. Part III. Columbæ—Alcæ. London: R. H. Porter, 1905. Price £2 2s. net.]

We were much pleased in 1902 to receive the second part of the '*Ootheca*,' completing the first volume, after a long delay. We have now the pleasure of welcoming the third part of this attractive work, which carries the subject forward from the Columbæ to the Alcæ inclusive. We suppose that a fourth part will complete the second volume and bring the whole work to a conclusion, and we trust that the issue of the final portion may soon take place.

In our notice ('*Ibis*,' 1903, p. 126) of the second part of the '*Ootheca*' we explained the general plan of work, and need not now repeat it.

The present part, which commences with the Pigeons, contains descriptions of 2791 sets or clutches of eggs and gives particulars of each of them as regards exact locality, date, and authority, so far as information on these points is available. Field-notes and other particulars are added when the subjects are of special interest. Many of these are selected from Wolley's journals and memoranda, and are well worthy of careful study, as shewing the enthusiasm of the great Oologist, and the extreme care that he exercised in the authentication of his specimens.

Part III. of the '*Ootheca*' is accompanied by eight coloured plates, all of them representing eggs of the Gare-fowl, or Great Auk (*Alca impennis*), to which bird Prof. Newton, as is well known, has devoted special attention for many years. The first seven plates represent the seven eggs now in the Wolley Collection; the last is taken from a drawing by John Hancceck of a specimen formerly in the cabinet of the late Mr. John Seales, which was afterwards destroyed in a fire. Full particulars are given by Prof. Newton of all that is known of the history of these wonderful and valuable eggs.

18. *North on some Australian Honey-eaters.*

[(1) On an Insular Form of *Melithreptus brevirostris*. By A. J. North. Rec. Austral. Mus. vol. vi. pt. 1.

(2) Notes on the Varied Honey-eater. By A. J. North. *Ibid.*]

Mr. North's recent studies of the Australian Meliphagidæ have led him to separate the form of *Melithreptus brevirostris* from Kangaroo Islands, South Australia, as *M. magnirostris*. In the second paper the nest and eggs of *Ptilotis versicolor* from one of the Frankland Islands, off the coast of N.E. Queensland, are described and figured.

19. *Oberholser on Birds from Kilimanjaro.*

[Birds collected by Dr. W. L. Abbott in the Kilimanjaro Region, East Africa. By Harry C. Oberholser. Pr. U.S. Nat. Mus. xxviii. pp. 823-926.]

The excellent series of birds sent to the U.S. National Museum by the energetic traveller and collector Dr. Abbott from the district round Kilimanjaro, in 1888 and 1889, has, for reasons which are not very clearly explained, remained undescribed (with the exception of a few novelties) up to the present time. Mr. Oberholser now gives us a complete account of it. It consists of 684 specimens, which "represent 256 species and subspecies belonging to 59 families." It will be, of course, understood that there is much difficulty in the determination of African birds in America, where there is no such large series of named specimens for comparison as are to be found at London and Berlin. A good idea of the richness of Dr. Abbott's collection is furnished by the list of 62 species and subspecies that were unnamed when his specimens were first received, but have since been described from other collections made in British East Africa. Nevertheless there remain in Dr. Abbott's series examples of a certain number of supposed new forms which are characterised in the present memoir under the following names:—*Astur sparsim-fasciatus aceletus*, *Lissotis notophila*, *Cœna capensis anonyma*, *Chalcopelia chalcospila acanthina*, *Asio maculosus amerimnus*, *Melignotheres exilis meliphilus*, *Pycnonotus layardi micrus*, *Apalis thescla*, and *Platysteira cryptoleuca*. Besides

these, a new name "*Acrocephalus orinus*" is proposed for "*A. macrorhynchus* (Hume)," because there is said to be a *Calamoherpe macrorhyncha* of v. Müller (Beitr. Orn. Afr. 1853), which is, however, a mere synonym of *A. stentoreus*. Moreover, Hume's species was based on a single specimen, and, as no other examples of it have yet been obtained (cf. Oates, 'Birds of Brit. India,' i. p. 361), Mr. Oberholser might well have refrained from giving a new name to a very doubtful bird which he has never seen!

In new genera our author is quite as prolific as in new subspecies. No less than 10 are proposed:—*Tachynautes*, *Viridibucco*, *Odontospiza*, *Arizelopsar*, *Poneropsar*, *Notiocichla*, *Anteliocichla*, *Cichlomyia*, *Arizelomyia*, and *Helionympha*. With regard to these it may be fairly said that most of them rest on very slender characters, and such as in our opinion hardly justify generic separation. Dr. Hartert, who has lately revised the Cypselidæ most carefully (Das Tierr., Lief. i.), does not separate "*Tachynautes*" from *Tachornis*. The Glossy Starlings of Africa have been "cut up" too much already, and should have the number of their generic terms reduced rather than augmented, and the same may be said of the Muscicapidæ. Even Dr. Sharpe, who admits 63 genera of this family, allows *Muscicapa cærulescens* to remain in *Muscicapa* and *M. latirostris* in *Alseonax*. But Mr. Oberholser makes them both the types of new genera!

Other changes in the names of well-known species are suggested by our author, who, instead of sticking to his text (the Birds of Kilimanjaro), has wandered far away to try to upset the nomenclature of birds which have little or nothing to do with his subject.

20. Reid on the Oyster-catchers.

[Sombre el jenero *Hæmatopus*. Por Edwin C. Reid, Director del Museo de Concepcion. Rev. Chilena de Hist. Nat. ix. nos. 2, 3 (1905).]

This is a short note on the Oyster-catchers of the Chilian coast by Mr. Reid, who appears to have moved his quarters from Valparaiso to Concepcion.

21. *Reiser on the Ornithological Results of the Austrian Expedition to Northern Brazil.*

[Ueber die ornithologische Ausbeute während der von der kais. Akademie der Wissenschaften im Jahre 1903 nach Brasilien entsendeten Expedition. Anz. Ak. Wien, no. viii. (July, 1905).]

The objects and the route of the Austrian Expedition to N.E. Brazil in 1903 were described in Herr Reiser's letter of March 1904 (see 'Ibis,' 1904, p. 471). Dr. Steindachner read a short report on the birds collected during the expedition, drawn up by Herr Custos Reiser, before the Academy of Sciences of Vienna on the 13th of July last. The specimens were stated to be 1347 in number, representing 354 species, amongst which were examples of five new to science. These were named *Rhamphastos theresæ*, *Megavænops* (gen. nov.) *paraguæ*, *Synallaxis griseiventris*, *Bubo magellanicus deserti*, and *Rhynchocyclus rufescens catiingæ*. The complete account of the Collection is promised in 1906.

22. *Rothschild and Hartert on the Birds of the Solomon Islands.*

[Further Contributions to our Knowledge of the Ornis of the Solomon Islands. By the Hon. Walter Rothschild, Ph.D., and Dr. Ernst Hartert. Nov. Zool. xii. pp. 243-268 (1905).]

Messrs. Rothschild and Hartert continue their account of the splendid collections made by the indefatigable naturalist Albert S. Meek in the Solomon Islands. Meek has now visited Rendova, Gizo, New Georgia, Choiseul, and Bougainville, and, notwithstanding the ferocity of the natives and the bad climate, has succeeded in attaining most valuable results. The number of actual novelties in these last collections is small, but a few wonderful discoveries have been made, such as *Microgoura meeki*, *Halcyon bougainvillei*, and *Corvus meeki*. These have been already characterised in the 'Bulletin' of the B. O. C., but both sexes of the conspicuous Kingfisher *Halcyon bougainvillei* are now figured, and the following new subspecies are described:—*Phlegænas beccarii intermedia*, *Astur etorques rubianæ*, *A. e. bougainvillei*, *Charmosynopsis placentis pallidior*, *Alcedo ispida salomonensis*, *Ceyx lepida nigro-maxilla*, *Halcyon tristrami alberti*, *Monarcha kulambangræ meeki*, and *Graucalus pusillus ombriosus*.

Judging by the birds, the authors are disposed to distinguish four groups of islands in the Solomon Archipelago, which they denominate (*a*) the northern chain, (*b*) the central group, (*c*) the Guadalcanar group, and (*d*) the southern group. The large islands Malaita and Rennel and many of the smaller are as yet unvisited, so Mr. Meek has much work still before him.

23. *Schillings's Travels in German East Africa**.

[Mit Blitzlicht und Büchse: Neue Beobachtungen und Erlebnisse in der Wildnis inmitten der Tierwelt von Aequatorial-Ostafrika. Von C. B. Schillings. Zweiter Abdruck. R. Voigtländers Verlag in Leipzig, 1905.]

In the Library of the Zoological Society may be seen a copy of this work, with its curious title. It is crammed with text-figures taken from the author's photographs, and is well worthy of attention by the student of tropical Nature. Many of the figures represent birds—Vultures, Marabous, Storks, Cormorants, Flamingos, Ibises, and the remarkable nests of *Textor albirostris*.

An Appendix contains a systematic list of the 355 species of birds obtained by Herr Schillings, drawn up by Dr. Reichenow, with short field-notes by the collector. An uncoloured plate represents three novelties discovered by this energetic explorer—*Calamocichla schillingsi*, *Erythropygia plebeia*, and *Ploceus schillingsi*.

24. *Schiøler on the Wild Duck of Greenland*.

[Om den grønlandske Stokand. Af E. Lehn Schiøler. Vid. Meddel. Kbhvn. 1905, p. 239.]

Dr. Lönnberg has pointed out to Mr. Schiøler that the Wild Duck of Greenland, which he has lately separated as *A. boschas spilogaster* (cf. 'Ibis,' 1905, p. 640), had been previously named *Anas conboschas* by C. L. Brehm in his 'Handbuch d. Naturgeschichte aller Vögel Deutschlands,' as long ago as 1831. Further remarks are added.

* Since this notice was written a translation of this remarkable work into English has been published by Messrs. Hutchinson & Co. under the title "With Flashlight and Rifle in Equatorial East Africa."

25. *Sclater (W. L.) on the Land-Vertebrates of South Africa.*

[Science in South Africa: a Handbook and Review prepared under the Auspices of the South African Governments and the South African Association for the Advancement of Science. Edited by the Rev. W. Flint, D.D., and J. D. F. Gilchrist, D.Sc. Cape Town: T. Maskew Miller, 1905. 1 vol. 8vo, 505 pp.]

In this volume, which contains a series of articles on various scientific subjects relating to South Africa, prepared for the information of the British Association, will be found in the "Zoological Section" a short memoir on the Mammals, Birds, and Reptiles of that country, written by Mr. W. L. Sclater, the Director of the South African Museum. The portion relating to the Birds, which occupies about eight pages, gives a sketch of the different groups met with in South Africa and mentions the more remarkable species in each of them. It is here stated that about 820 South-African birds are now known, of which 380 belong to the Order Passeres.

26. *Sclater's Check-List of South-African Birds.*

[Check-List of the Birds of South Africa, containing Additions since the issue of the successive volumes of Birds in the "Fauna of South Africa" Series. By W. L. Sclater, M.A., F.Z.S., Director of the South African Museum. Price 2s. 6d.]

The main portion of this paper is occupied by a list of the species recognised in Stark and Sclater's 'Birds of South Africa,' which will be shortly completed by the issue of the fourth volume. The total number of species described in that work is 814. Additions and alterations, which have occurred during the progress of the work, raise the number in the present list to 868. Of each of these the scientific and English names are given, together with an indication of the distribution, shown by symbolical letters. There can be no doubt of the utility of this List to working Ornithologists.

Following the List we find a series of notes explanatory of the additions and corrections to be made in the names of the birds described in the 'Fauna of South Africa.' We learn here that the British Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), which

is believed to have been first introduced by the late Mr. Rhodes, has during the last few years completely established itself in Cape Town and its suburbs, nesting abundantly in similar sites to those made use of in England. *Passer domesticus*, on the other hand, has (happily) not yet reached the Cape (where its place is taken to a certain extent by *P. arcuatus*), but it is said to have been introduced at Durban, and to be increasing there "very rapidly."

Many notes on the nomenclature and arrangement of birds in the South-African List will be found in this part of the memoir.

27. *Scott (W. E. D.) on the probable Origin of certain Birds.*

[On the probable Origin of certain Birds. By William E. D. Scott. Reprinted from 'Science,' n. s. vol. xxii. no. 557 (September 1, 1905).]

In the List of North-American Birds it is well known that there are certain species, described by Wilson, Audubon, and others of the older writers, of which but one or two examples have ever been obtained. It can hardly be supposed, seeing the energetic and careful way in which every part of the Nearctic Region has now been searched by modern observers, that any more representatives of these species will ever be found, and they may be safely regarded as extinct. Mr. Scott selects seven of them, such as *Tringa cooperi* and *Spiza townsendi*, and discusses their relationships. He comes to the conclusion that they are "mutations," which were not perpetuated, or what are sometimes called "sports," of existing species. On the other hand, two recently discovered forms, *Helminthophaga leucobronchialis* and *H. lawrencii*, which are usually regarded as hybrids, and were quite unknown in the days of Audubon and Wilson, Mr. Scott considers to be recently produced "mutations" which are increasing in number.

As regards the first of these hypotheses, we are disposed to agree with Mr. Scott, but as regards the second, more evidence, as Mr. Scott confesses, is required.

The "strange case of *Athene chiaradie*" (see 'Ibis,' 1903,

p. I, pl. i.) is adduced as another example of "mutation," and the *Coturnix lodoisie* of Verreaux and the so-called "Sabine's Snipe" are possibly referable to the same class of phenomena.

28. *Suschkin on the Classification of the Accipitres.*

[Zur Morphologie des Vogelskelets. Vergleichende Osteologie der normalen Tagraubvögel (Accipitres) und die Fragen der Classification. Von P. P. Suschkin. Nouv. Mém. Soc. Imp. d. Nat. Moscou, xvi. livr. 4 (1905).]

This is an excellent piece of work, but what is to be the fate of ornithology if the settlement of a portion of the Birds-of-Prey requires 250 quarto pages especially well written by a careful expert!

The author draws attention to the untrustworthy material which served for the illustrations of Dr. A. B. Meyer's well-known 'Photographs of Bird-Skeletons,' and since these are often used as standard references, he has criticised in detail a number of grave errors in identification.

Suschkin divides the Accipitres (exclusive of *Pandion* and *Serpentarius*) into two families, of which he gives the following definitions based upon external characters:—

Fam. FALCONIDÆ.—The palatal surface of the rhamphotheca is furnished with a sharp longitudinal ridge, which gradually diminishes forwards.

The limit of the pterylosis on the sides of the lower jaw appears as a straight or gently curved line directed downwards and forwards; or, if the plumage does not extend upon the under-jaw, the crown of the head is covered with fine feathers.

Fam. AQUILIDÆ.—The palatal surface is devoid of a longitudinal ridge; there is often an elevation on the posterior palatal rhamphotheca, but it ends in this case always abruptly in front.

The feathering of the sides of the lower jaw appears in the shape of an acute angle; or, if the sides of the jaw are bare, the crown is also bare or covered with down only.

The Falconidæ are divided into the subfamilies: 1. *Falconinæ*; 2. *Poliohieracinae*; 3. *Polyborinæ*; 4. *Herpetotherinae*. Tabular keys of these subfamilies and of the orders are supplied, based upon external characters, for identification. The taxonomic characters proper are discussed at length in the text.

Very reasonably the author concludes that subfamilies 1 and 2 represent two parallel groups, equivalent to each other. Subfamily 4, composed of *Micrastur* and *Herpetotheres*, arises from the bifurcation of the two main branches; *Microhierax* and *Poliohierax* are two closely allied genera, forming a little twig off the Falconine branch.

Lastly follow very readable and interesting remarks on geographical distribution, œcology, convergence of genera, and similar questions, all represented in a way that shews the intense amount of labour and thought which the author has bestowed upon his favourite group.

29. Tredgold on the Quails of Matabeleland.

[On the extensive Appearance of Quail in Matabeleland, 1901-2. By C. H. Tredgold. Proc. Rhod. Sc. Assoc. vol. iii. p. 3 (1902).]

The 'Proceedings of the Rhodesia Scientific Association' (Bulawayo, 1899-1905), with a copy of which we have lately been favoured, contain (amongst many other interesting communications) a paper by Mr. Tredgold on the Harlequin Quail (*Coturnix delegorguei*), which occasionally appears in enormous flocks in various parts of Matabeleland, and nests there, but entirely disappears at other times.

30. Tschusi zu Schmidhoffen on the Migration of the Waxwing.

[Ueber den Zug des Seidenschwanzes (*Ampelis garrula* L.) im Winter 1903-4. Von Viktor Ritter v. Tschusi zu Schmidhoffen. Ornith. vol. xiii. (1905).]

This memoir contains an elaborate account of the great irruption of the Waxwing into Middle and Southern Europe in the autumn and winter of 1903-4. The birds spread over France, Germany, Northern Italy, Austria, Hungary, and Roumania. Beginning in October 1903, they are

recorded from various localities until the following May. In some places large flocks, in others small flocks and single specimens, were observed. In Great Britain they appear to have been not quite so numerous as in some districts of the Continent, but four instances of their appearance in England, four in Scotland, and one in Ireland are mentioned by the author of this paper, and others have been recorded in the 'Zoologist' and various journals (see also Mr. Workman's letter, 'Ibis,' 1904, p. 307).

31. *Van Hoeffen on South-Polar Birds.*

[Die Tierwelt des Südpolargebiets. Von Prof. Dr. E. Van Hoeffen in Kiel. Sonderabdr. a. d. Zeitschr. d. Gesellsch. f. Erdk. z. Berlin, 1904.]

This extract from the 'Zeitschrift' of the Geographical Society of Berlin contains a chapter by Prof. Van Hoeffen on the South-Polar Fauna, in which will be found some remarks on the Antarctic Penguins and other birds, with a few illustrations in the text. A much more detailed account of the ornithological results of the German South-Polar Expedition has, however, been published by the same writer in the 'Journal f. Ornithologie' (1905, Heft iii.). During the year's detention of the Expedition in the ice on the shores of King-William's Land, only ten species of birds were observed. Of these the distinctively Antarctic forms were but five—namely, the two Penguins (*Aptenodytes forsteri* and *Pygoscelis adeliae*), the Skua Gull (*Stercorarius maccormicki*), and two species of Petrel (*Thalassæca antarctica* and *Pagodroma nivea*). The Emperor Penguin was observed throughout the year, usually in large flocks of 300 or so, and was apparently breeding on the ice, as in the beginning of December great numbers of young birds in down were met with. The Antarctic Penguin was only seen from November to March.

32. *Winge on the Birds of the Danish Lighthouses.*

[Fuglene ved de danske Fyr i 1904. 22de Aarsberetning om danske Fugle. Ved Herluf Winge. Vidensk. Meddel. fra den naturh. Foren. i. Kbhvn. 1905, p. 168.]

We have now before us the twenty-second of these

admirable reports, relating to the year 1904. The specimens of birds sent to the Zoological Museum of Copenhagen from the Lightships and Lighthouses in that year were 620, which are referred to 56 species, against 750 specimens belonging to 50 species in 1903 (see 'Ibis,' 1904, p. 163). The notes on them are arranged in the usual methodical manner. The most numerous species in 1904 were *Alauda arvensis* (248 specimens), *Turdus musicus* (38), and *Erithacus rubecula* (38).

33. Wytsman's 'Genera Avium.'

['Genera Avium,' edited by P. Wytsman. With Contributions by Messrs. P. L. Selater, R. Bowdler Sharpe, W. R. Ogilvie-Grant, E. Hartert, C. L. Hellmayr, T. Salvadori, &c. Parts 1-5. Brussels, 1905.]

We have now before us the first five parts of 'Genera Avium,' the plan and scope of which have already been explained to our readers (see 'Ibis,' 1904, pp. 171, 309).

Part 1 (price 2s. 11d.) contains a reprint of Mr. Hartert's essay on the Eurylæmidæ, which was originally issued as a specimen of the projected work (see 'Ibis,' 1904, p. 309). The Family is divided into two Subfamilies, Calyptomeninæ and Eurylæminæ. Of the former Mr. Hartert recognises one genus with 3 species, of the latter six genera with 8 species and 7 subspecies. The coloured plate by Keulemans represents *Serilophus lunatus rothschildi* and details of other species.

Part 2 (price 3s. 1d.) contains an account of the Family Todidæ, by Mr. P. Wytsman. This Family has only the one genus *Todus*, a very peculiar group, restricted to the Greater Antilles. It has four representative forms in the four islands in which it occurs, which the author treats as subspecies! As the forms are sufficiently distinct to be recognised we cannot agree to this view, and prefer to consider them full species, as all former authors have done. The four species are all figured in the coloured plate.

Part 3 (price 2s. 9d.), by Count Salvadori, contains the Stringopidæ, with the single genus *Stringops* (of New Zealand), which has one certain species, for the so-called *S. greyi*, as

the author observes, has been probably based on an individual variety. The plate annexed represents the typical form of *Stringops* and various details.

Part 4 (price 2s. 11d.), also by Count Salvadori, contains the Nestoridae of New Zealand, consisting of the single genus *Nestor*. The author recognises six species of this curious form. The plate represents *Nestor septentrionalis* and details of other species.

Part 5 (price 6s.), also by Count Salvadori, relates to the Cacatuidæ, which are divided into two subfamilies—Cacatuinae and Calopsittacinæ. In the first of these the author recognises five genera with 26 species altogether. The second subfamily contains only one species, *Calopsittacus novæ-hollandiæ*.

Two excellent coloured plates represent *Cacatua goffini*, *Calopsittacus novæ-hollandiæ*, and various details.

XII.—Letters, Notes, Extracts, &c.

WE have received the following letters addressed to "The Editors of 'The Ibis'":—

SIRs,—It may interest the readers of 'The Ibis' to learn that I have lately had the opportunity of examining a specimen of the rare Albatros described by Salvin in 1896 as *Thalassogeron layardi* (Cat. B. xxv. p. 450), of which, so far as I am aware, but one example is yet known. The specimen in question was obtained by the late Mr. J. O. Marais off the Knysna Heads, on the eastern coast of the Colony, on the 28th of August, 1899, and was acquired, with other birds collected by the same gentleman, by the Pretoria Museum. Dr. Gunning, at my request, has kindly allowed me to examine it, and I find it to agree well with the description and measurements of the type in the British Museum as given by Salvin.

If the genus *Thalassogeron* is to be maintained (of which Mr. Reithschild has lately expressed some doubt—see Bull.